

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for carefully reviewing the present application. The present amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on May 05, 2004 regarding claims 1-7. Applicants have thoroughly reviewed the outstanding Office Action including the Examiner's remarks and the references cited therein. The above amendment and following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Office Action and render all claims at issue patentably distinguishable over cited references.

Favorable reconsideration is requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1 and 6 are amended, claims 8-12 are newly added, and thereof claims 1-12 are now pending in the application. These amendments contain no new matter nor raise new issues.

Objection to the Title

The title of the invention was objected to as not being sufficiently descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Applicants have proposed an alternative title, which is believed to resolve this objection. Accordingly, favorable consideration and withdrawal of this objection are respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claim(s) were said to contain

subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Specifically, the Office Action alleged that the specification was silent as to a method of photography as a means to form the ramparts.

In response thereto, the applicants have amended claim 6, and indicate the ramparts is formed by one mask process to comply with the enablement requirement. Support for this feature can be found, for example, at page 8, lines 21-22, of the specification.

Therefore, Claim 6 is now believed to be in form for allowance, and accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 112 rejections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-5 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's admitted prior art.

The applicants have amended claim 1, and so these claim rejections are respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's admitted prior art does not anticipate the claimed features of the present application, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejections be withdrawn.

As recited in the amended claim 1, the present application is directed to a method of manufacturing an organic electroluminescent element to form a

pattern on a display panel, comprising: providing a substrate; forming a first display electrode having a continuous surface on the substrate; forming a rampart structure on the continuous surface of the first display electrode for isolating the continuous surface of the first display electrode into a first portion and a second portion, wherein the rampart structure is disposed on the second portion of the first display electrode and the first portion of the continuous surface of the first display electrode is the same as the pattern; forming at least one organic function layer on the first portion of the first display electrode and the rampart structure; and forming a second display electrode on the organic function layer.

Figures 4 and 5 of Applicant's admitted prior art, applied in the Office Action, do not teach "forming a rampart structure on the continuous surface of the first display electrode for isolating the continuous surface of the first display electrode into a first portion and a second portion, wherein the rampart structure is disposed on the second portion of the first display electrode and the first portion of the continuous surface of the first display electrode is the same as the pattern", or "forming at least one organic function layer on the first portion of the first display electrode and the rampart structure".

Differences between the claimed invention and the alleged prior art shown in Figs. 4 and 5 are particularly clear with regard to Figs. 6A-C and the corresponding explanation at pages 8 and 9 of the specification, which disclose rampart 120.

Consequently, the present application is different from, and in no way

even suggested by Applicant's admitted prior art; Applicant's admitted prior art figures 4 and 5 fail to anticipate the present application. Accordingly, the amended claim 1 of the present application is patentably distinguishable over Applicant's admitted prior art. It is therefore requested that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) be withdrawn.

With regard to the claims 2-5 and 7, since the amended claim 1 is allowable, claims 2-5 and 7, each of which depends from the independent claim 1, are likewise believed to be allowable.

Therefore, the applicants respectfully request that the section 102(b) rejection be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C.103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Nunomura (6,450,850) (hereinafter referred to as "Nunomura"). This rejection is respectfully traversed. As will be fully explained below, it is respectfully submitted that Applicant's admitted prior art in view of Nunomura does not render the claimed invention obvious, and the applicants respectfully request that the section 103(a) rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner describes that Applicant's admitted prior art discloses all of the claimed limitations except for the rampart being formed by photography. It should be noted, though, that revised claim 6 now speaks of the rampart being formed by one mask process. Consequently, according to the aforementioned description, it will be appreciated that Applicant's admitted

prior art fails to anticipate the present application, and it is clear that Applicant's admitted prior art does not disclose all of the claimed limitations.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's characterization of Nunomura as suggesting the use of photography (a term no longer used in claim 6). Nunomura only mentions the photographic technique in the context of the prior art, and Nunomura **disparages** that process (cols. 1-2) Nunomura goes on to advocate a press-molding technique, an entirely different procedure. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would consider Nunomura to teach away from the invention as set out in claim 6, would not combine Nunomura with the admitted prior art, and even if they did combine such information, they would be led **away** from the present invention, since Nunomura advocates a press-molding scheme.

In addition, Nunomura does not teach or disclose "forming a rampart structure on the continuous surface of the first display electrode for isolating the continuous surface of the first display electrode into a first portion and a second portion, wherein the rampart structure is disposed on the second portion of the first display electrode and the first portion of the continuous surface of the first display electrode is the same as the pattern", and "forming at least one organic function layer on the first portion of the first display electrode and the rampart structure".

Since neither Applicant's admitted prior art nor Nunomura teaches or discloses the technique features of the present application, there exists no motivation for a person skilled in the art to combine Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura. Even if Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura are

combined, the combination of Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura still fails to disclose or teach the feature of the present application and render the present application obvious. Accordingly, it will be appreciated that the technical features of the present application are non-obvious.

For the reasons just given above, Applicants also wish to point out that the combination of Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura does not render features in the amended claim 1 of the present application obvious, meaning amended claim 1 is allowable thereover. Since the amended claim 1 is allowable, dependent claim 6 depending from independent claim 1 is likewise believed to be allowable. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request that the section 103 rejections be withdrawn.

New Claims

(1) Regarding newly added claim 8, neither Applicant's admitted prior art nor Nunomura disclose or teach "the second portion of the organic function layer is formed abutted on the rampart structure". Furthermore, since the amended claim 1 is allowable, and the new claim 8 includes all of the limitations of the amended claim 1, and the base claim and any intervening claims of claim 1, the new claim 8 is allowable.

(2) Regarding newly added claim 9, neither Applicant's admitted prior art nor Nunomura disclose or teach "the first portion of the organic function layer and the second portion of the organic function layer is formed to be discontinuous". Moreover, since the amended claim 1 is allowable, and the new claim 9 includes all of the limitations of the amended claim 1, and the base claim and any intervening claims of claim 1, the new claim 9 is allowable.

(3) Regarding newly added claims 10~12, Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura all do not disclose or teach "forming an organic function layer having a first portion with the same pattern with the icon structure, abutted on a first portion of the first continuous display electrode" and "forming a rampart structure, located on a second portion of the first continuous display electrode". Accordingly, new claims 10~12 are patentably distinguishable over Applicant's admitted prior art and Nunomura.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08A) form.

The cited references constitute the art of record from parent application no. 09/815,641, the priority of which has been claimed under 35 U.S.C. § 120. It is understood that, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 609(I)(A)(2), such art will be considered by the Examiner. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d), copies of those references which are of record in the parent application have not been provided.

It is respectfully requested that this information be considered by the Examiner and that an initialed copy of the enclosed Information Disclosure Statement by Applicant (PTO/SB/08A) form be returned to confirm that such information has been considered.

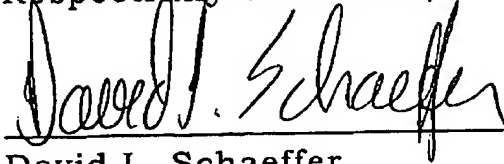
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-12 as currently presented are in condition for allowance and hereby requests reconsideration. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to

pass the case to issue at the earliest convenience.

No fees are believed to be due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees now or hereafter due in connection with the prosecution of this application to Deposit Account No. 19-4709.

Respectfully submitted,



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